IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS EASTERN DIVISION

LINDA TELLIS, individually and on behalf of the class)
defined herein,) 08-cv-2854
Plaintiff,) Judge Darrah) Magistrate Judge Cox
VS.)
CSGA, LLC; BRONSON & MIGLIACCIO, LLP, H. BRUCE BRONSON, JR. and RICHARD J. MIGLIACCIO,))))
Defendants.)

MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR CLASS CERTIFICATION

Plaintiff respectfully requests that this Court enter an order determining that this Fair Debt Collection Practices Act ("FDCPA") action may proceed as a class action against defendants CSGA, LLC, Bronson & Migliaccio, LLP. ("B&M"), H. Bruce Bronson, Jr. ("Bronson") and Richard J. Migliaccio ("Migliaccio"). This memorandum is submitted in support of that motion.

I. NATURE OF THE CASE

This action seeks redress for the conduct of defendant, a debt buyer, in filing collection actions on purported debts to which it did not have lawful title. In order to protect Illinois residents against being sued for the same debts twice, the Illinois Collection Agency Act ("ICAA") was amended effective January 1, 2008 to define debt buyers as "collection agencies". This makes applicable the licensing requirements of the ICAA and the special assignment requirements in ICAA §8b, 225 ILCS 425/8b. Illinois courts had held prior to the amendment that a party that was required to but did not have such an assignment does not have a valid claim and that the defendant in such a case is entitled to judgment. Business Service Bureau, Inc. v. Webster, 298 Ill. App. 3d 257; 698 N.E.2d 702 (4th Dist. 1998).

Section 8b of the ICAA provides:

- Sec. 8b. An account may be assigned to a collection agency for collection with title passing to the collection agency to enable collection of the account in the agency's name as assignee for the creditor provided:
 - (a) The assignment is manifested by a written agreement, separate from and in addition to any document intended for the purpose of listing a debt with a collection agency. The document manifesting the assignment shall specifically state and include:
 - (i) the effective date of the assignment; and
 - (ii) the consideration for the assignment.
 - (b) The consideration for the assignment may be paid or given either before or after the effective date of the assignment. The consideration may be contingent upon the settlement or outcome of litigation and if the claim being assigned has been listed with the collection agency as an account for collection, the consideration for assignment may be the same as the fee for collection.
 - (c) All assignments shall be voluntary and properly executed and acknowledged by the corporate authority or individual transferring title to the collection agency before any action can be taken in the name of the collection agency.
 - (d) No assignment shall be required by any agreement to list a debt with a collection agency as an account for collection.
 - (e) No litigation shall commence in the name of the licensee as plaintiff unless: (i) there is an assignment of the account that satisfies the requirements of this Section and (ii) the licensee is represented by a licensed attorney at law....

The assignment must be attached to the complaint. Candice Co. v. Ricketts, 281 Ill.App.3d 359, 362, 666 N.E.2d 722 (1st Dist. 1996). In addition, the assignee is required "in his or her pleading on oath allege that he or she is the actual bona fide owner thereof, and set forth how and when he or she acquired title. . . . " 735 ILCS 5/2-403(a).

Defendant CSGA, LLC, a debt buyer regulated by the ICAA since January 1, 2008, systematically files collection lawsuits without compliance with ICAA §8b and, therefore, without valid claims. Defendant CSGA, LLC has been the plaintiff in more than 100 lawsuits filed in Illinois since January 1, 2008 and seeking to collect consumer debts. See Appendix A-B.

In this action, plaintiff complains that such practice violates both the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. §§1692e and 1692f, and ICAA §9. Finally, plaintiff alleges that the practices described above constitutes both unfair and deceptive acts and practices, in violation of §2 of the Illinois Consumer Fraud Act, 815 ILCS 505/2

II. THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT

The FDCPA states that its purpose, in part, is "to eliminate abusive debt collection practices by debt collectors". 15 U.S.C. §1692(e). It is designed to protect consumers from unscrupulous collectors, whether or not there is a valid debt. Mace v. Van Ru Credit Corp., 109 F.3d 338 (7th Cir. 1997); Keele v. Wexler, 149 F.3d 589, 594 (7th Cir. 1998); Baker v. G.C. Services Corp., 677 F.2d 775, 777 (9th Cir. 1982); McCartney v. First City Bank, 970 F.2d 45, 47 (5th Cir. 1992). The FDCPA broadly prohibits unfair or unconscionable collection methods; conduct which harasses, oppresses or abuses any debtor; and any false, deceptive or misleading statements, in connection with the collection of a debt; it also requires debt collectors to give debtors certain information. 15 U.S.C. §§1692d, 1692e, 1692f and 1692g.

In enacting the FDCPA, Congress recognized the --

universal agreement among scholars, law enforcement officials, and even debt collectors that the number of persons who willfully refuse to pay just debts is minuscule [sic]. . . . [T]he vast majority of consumers who obtain credit fully intend to repay their debts. When default occurs, it is nearly always due to an unforeseen event such as unemployment, overextension, serious illness, or marital difficulties or divorce.

S. Rep. No. 382, 95th Cong., 1st Sess. 3 (1977), reprinted in 1977 USCCAN 1695, 1697.

The Seventh Circuit has held that whether a debt collector's conduct violates the FDCPA should be judged from the standpoint of an "unsophisticated consumer." <u>Avila v. Rubin</u>, 84 F.3d 222 (7th Cir. 1996); <u>Gammon v. GC Services, LP</u>, 27 F.3d 1254 (7th Cir. 1994). The standard is an objective one -- whether the plaintiff or any class member was misled is not an element of a cause of action. "The question is not whether these plaintiffs were deceived or misled, but rather whether an unsophisticated consumer would have been misled." <u>Beattie v. D.M.</u> Collections, Inc., 754 F.Supp. 383, 392 (D.Del. 1991).

Because it is part of the Consumer Credit Protection Act, 15 U.S.C. §§1601 et seq., the FDCPA should be liberally construed in favor of the consumer to effectuate its purposes. <u>Cirkot</u>

v. Diversified Fin. Services, Inc., 839 F.Supp. 941 (D. Conn. 1993).

The [Consumer Credit Protection] Act is remedial in nature, designed to remedy what Congressional hearings revealed to be unscrupulous and predatory creditor practices throughout the nation. Since the statute is remedial in nature, its terms must be construed in liberal fashion if the underlying Congressional purpose is to be effectuated.

N.C. Freed Co. v. Board of Governors, 473 F.2d 1210, 1214 (2d Cir. 1973).

Statutory damages are recoverable for violations, whether or not the consumer proves actual damages. Bartlett v. Heibl, 128 F.3d 497, 499 (7th Cir.1997); Baker, 677 F.2d at 780-1; Woolfolk v. Van Ru Credit Corp., 783 F. Supp. 724, 727 and n. 3 (D. Conn. 1990); Cacace v. Lucas, 775 F. Supp. 502 (D. Conn. 1990); Riveria v. MAB Collections, Inc., 682 F. Supp. 174, 177 (W.D.N.Y. 1988); Kuhn v. Account Control Technol., 865 F. Supp. 1443, 1450 (D.Nev. 1994); In re Scrimpsher, 17 B.R. 999, 1016-7 (Bankr.N.D.N.Y. 1982); In re Littles, 90 B.R. 669, 680 (Bankr. E.D.Pa. 1988), aff'd as modified sub nom. Crossley v. Lieberman, 90 B.R. 682 (E.D.Pa. 1988), aff'd, 868 F.2d 566 (3d Cir. 1989).

The FDCPA encourages consumers to act as "private attorneys general" to enforce the public policies expressed therein. Crabill v. Trans Union, L.L.C., 259 F.3d 662, 666 (7th Cir. 2001); Baker, 677 F.2d at 780; Whatley v. Universal Collection Bureau, 525 F. Supp. 1204, 1206 (N.D.Ga. 1981). "Congress intended the Act to be enforced primarily by consumers" FTC v. Shaffner, 626 F.2d 32, 35 (7th Cir. 1980). "Congress painted with a broad brush in the FDCPA to protect consumers from abusive and deceptive debt collection practices, and courts are not at liberty to excuse violations where the language of the statute clearly comprehends them" Pipiles v. Credit Bureau of Lockport, Inc., 886 F.2d 22, 27 (2d Cir. 1989).

Plaintiff need not prove intent, bad faith or negligence in an FDCPA case. The "FDCPA is a strict liability statute," and "proof of one violation is sufficient to support summary judgment for the plaintiff." Cacace v. Lucas, 775 F. Supp. at 505. Accord, Turner v. J.V.D.B. & Associates, Inc., 330 F.3d 991, 995 (7th Cir. 2003); Gearing v. Check Brokerage Corp., 233 F.3d 469, 472 (7th Cir. 2000).

III. STANDARD FOR CLASS CERTIFICATION

Class actions are essential to enforce laws protecting consumers. As the court stated in Eshaghi v. Hanley Dawson Cadillac Co., 214 Ill.App.3d 995, 574 N.E.2d 760 (1st Dist. 1991):

In a large and impersonal society, class actions are often the last barricade of consumer protection. . . . To consumerists, the consumer class action is an inviting procedural device to cope with frauds causing small damages to large groups. The slight loss to the individual, when aggregated in the coffers of the wrongdoer, results in gains which are both handsome and tempting. The alternatives to the class action -- private suits or governmental actions -- have been so often found wanting in controlling consumer frauds that not even the ardent critics of class actions seriously contend that they are truly effective. The consumer class action, when brought by those who have no other avenue of legal redress, provides restitution to the injured, and deterrence of the wrongdoer. (574 N.E.2d at 764, 766)

Congress expressly recognized the propriety of a class action under the FDCPA by providing special damage provisions and criteria in 15 U.S.C. §§1692k(a) and (b) for FDCPA class action cases. As a result, numerous FDCPA class actions have been certified. Shea v. Codilis, 99 C 57, 2000 WL 336537, 2000 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 4131 (N.D. Ill. Mar. 27, 2000); Roe v. Publishers Clearing House, 98 C 330, 1999 WL 966977, 1999 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 16249 (N.D. Ill. Sept. 30, 1999); Vines v. Sands, 188 F.R.D. 302 (N.D. Ill. 1999); Nielsen v. Dickerson, 98 C 5909, 1999 WL 350694, 1999 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 8334 (N.D. Ill. May 19, 1999); Sledge v. Sands, 182 F.R.D. 255 (N.D. III. 1998); Shaver v. Trauner, C.A. 97-1309, 1998 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 19648 (C.D. III. July 31, 1998); Davis v. Suran, 98 C 656, 1998 WL 474105, 1998 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 12233 (N.D. Ill. July 31, 1998); Francisco v. Doctors & Merchants Credit Service, Inc., 98 C 716, 1998 WL 474107, 1998 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 12234 (N.D. Ill., July 29, 1998); Keele v. Wexler & Wexler, 95 C 3483, 1996 WL 124452, 1996 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 3253 (N.D. Ill., March 18, 1996), aff'd, 149 F.3d 589 (7th Cir. 1998); Wells v. McDonough, 97 C 3288, 1998 WL 160876, 1998 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 4441 (N.D. Ill. Mar. 23, 1998); Miller v. Wexler & Wexler, 97 C 6593, 1998 WL 60798, 1998 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 1382 (N.D. Ill. Feb. 5, 1998); Wilborn v. Dun & Bradstreet, 180 F.R.D. 347 (N.D. Ill. 1998); Arango v. GC Services LP, 97 C 7912, 1998 WL 325257, 1998 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 9124 (N.D. Ill. 1998) (misleading collection letters); Avila v Van Ru Credit Corp., 94 C 3234, 1995 WL 683775, Union Corp., C.A. 94-22, 1995 WL 20865, 1995 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 567 (E.D. Pa. 1995) (FDCPA class certified regarding defendant Trans Union's transmission of misleading collection notices to consumers); Colbert v. Trans Union Corp., C.A. 93-6106, 1995 WL 20821, 1995 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 578 (E.D. Pa. 1995) (same); Gammon v. GC Services, L.P., 162 F.R.D. 313 (N.D. Ill. 1995) (similar); Zanni v. Lippold, 119 F.R.D. 32, 35 (C.D. Ill. 1988); West v. Costen, 558 F. Supp. 564, 572-573 (W.D. Va. 1983) (FDCPA class certified regarding alleged failure to provide required "validation" notices and addition of unauthorized fees); Cheqnet Systems, Inc. v. Montgomery, 322 Ark. 742, 911 S.W.2d 956 (1995) (class certified in FDCPA action challenging bad check charges); Brewer v. Friedman, 152 F.R.D. 142 (N.D. Ill. 1993) (FDCPA class certified regarding transmission of misleading collection demands to consumers), earlier opinion, 833 F. Supp. 697 (N.D. Ill. 1993); Duran v. Credit Bureau of Yuma, Inc., 93 F.R.D. 607 (D. Ariz. 1982) (class certified in action complaining of unauthorized charges).

IV. THE PROPOSED CLASS MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFICATION A. Rule 23(a)(1) -- Numerosity

Fed.R.Civ.P. 23(a)(1) requires that the class be "so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable." "When the class is large, numbers alone are dispositive " <u>Riordan</u>, 113 F.R.D. at 62. Where the class numbers at least 40, joinder is generally considered impracticable. <u>Cypress v. Newport News General & Nonsectarian Hosp. Ass'n</u>, 375 F.2d 648, 653 (4th Cir. 1967) (18 sufficient); <u>Swanson v. American Consumer Industries</u>, 415 F.2d 1326, 1333 (7th Cir. 1969) (40 sufficient); <u>Riordan</u>, 113 F.R.D. 60 (10-29 sufficient); <u>Philadelphia Electric Co. v. Anaconda American Brass Co.</u>, 43 F.R.D. 452, 463 (E.D.Pa. 1968) (25 sufficient); <u>Sala v. National R. Pass. Corp.</u>, 120 F.R.D. 494, 497 (E.D.Pa. 1988) (40-50 sufficient); <u>Scholes v. Stone, McGuire & Benjamin</u>, 143 F.R.D. 181, 184 (N.D. Ill. 1992) (about 70). It is not necessary that the precise number of class members be known. "A class action may proceed upon estimates as to the size of the proposed class." <u>In re Alcoholic Beverages Litigation</u>, 95 F.R.D. 321 (E.D.N.Y. 1982); <u>Lewis</u>

v. Gross, 663 F. Supp. 1164, 1169 (E.D.N.Y. 1986).

The court may "make common sense assumptions in order to find support for numerosity." Evans v. United States Pipe & Foundry, 696 F.2d 925, 930 (11th Cir. 1983). "[T]he court may assume sufficient numerousness where reasonable to do so in absence of a contrary showing by defendant, since discovery is not essential in most cases in order to reach a class determination . . . Where the exact size of the class is unknown, but it is general knowledge or common sense that it is large, the court will take judicial notice of this fact and will assume joinder is impracticable." 2 Newberg on Class Actions (3d ed. 1992), §7.22.A.

For example, it is reasonable to infer that the number of class members exceeds the minimum necessary from the use by a large collection agency of a form letter. Swiggett v. Watson, 441 F. Supp. 254, 256 (D.Del. 1977) (in action challenging transfers of title pursuant to Delaware motor vehicle repairer's lien, fact that Department of Motor Vehicles issued printed form for such transfer in and of itself sufficient to show that numerosity requirement was satisfied); Westcott v. Califano, 460 F. Supp. 737, 744 (D.Mass. 1978) (in action challenging certain welfare policies, existence of policies and 148 families who were denied benefits to which policies applied sufficient to show numerosity, even though it was impossible to identify which of 148 families were denied benefits because of policies complained of); Carr, 1995 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 567 (FDCPA class certified regarding defendant Trans Union's transmission of misleading collection notices to consumers in which court inferred numerosity from the use of form letters); Colbert, 1995 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 578 (same); Keele, 1996 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 3253.

Here, the volume of cases filed by defendant (<u>Appendix A-B</u>), coupled with its practice of omitting an assignment that complies with ICAA §8b, makes it reasonable to infer numerosity.

B. Rules 23(a)(2) and 23(b)(3) – Predominance of common questions of law or fact Fed.R.Civ.P. 23(a)(2) requires that there be a common question of law *or* fact. Rule 23(b)(3) requires that the questions of law or fact common to all members of the class predominate

over questions pertaining to individual members.

These requirements are normally satisfied when there is an essential common factual link between all class members and the defendants for which the law provides a remedy. Halverson v. Convenient Food Mart, Inc., 69 F.R.D. 331, 334 (N.D.III. 1974). Where a question of law involves "standardized conduct of the defendants toward members of the proposed class, a common nucleus of operative facts is typically presented, and the commonality requirement . . . is usually met." Franklin v. City of Chicago, 102 F.R.D. 944, 949 (N.D.Ill. 1984); accord, Patrykus v. Gomilla, 121 F.R.D. 357, 361 (N.D.Ill. 1988); Carroll v. United Compucred Collections, 1-99-0152 H/G, 2002 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 25032, *43-44 (M.D.Tenn. Nov. 15, 2002), adopted in pertinent part, 2003 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 5996 (M.D. Tenn., Mar. 31, 2003), aff'd, 399 F.3d 620 (6th Cir. 2005); Wahl v. Midland Credit Mgmt., 06 C 1708, 2007 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 39626, *14-15 (N.D.Ill., May 30, 2007); Smith v. Nike Retail Services, Inc., 234 F.R.D. 648, 659 (N.D.III. 2006). The authorities hold that cases dealing with the legality of standardized documents or conduct are generally appropriate for resolution by means of a class action because the document or conduct is the focal point of the analysis. Halverson, supra, 69 F.R.D. at 334-336; Haroco v. American Nat'l Bank, 121 F.R.D. 664, 669 (N.D. Ill. 1988) (improper computation of interest); Kleiner v. First Nat'l Bank, 97 F.R.D. 683, 692 (N.D.Ga. 1983) (same); <u>Heastie v. Community Bank</u>, 125 F.R.D. 669, 675 (N.D.III. 1989) (execution of home improvement financing documents in sequence that evaded consumers' rescission rights); Carroll v. United Compucred Collections, 1-99-0152 H/G, 2002 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 25032, *47-48 (M.D.Tenn. Nov. 15, 2002) (collection practices).

In this case, the "common nucleus of operative fact," <u>Halverson</u>, 69 F.R.D. at 335, is that defendant filed lawsuits against the members of the class without attaching an assignment that complies with ICAA §8b. This conduct gives rise to the predominant common question of whether the statements complained of violate the FDCPA, ICAA and ICFA.

The only individual issue is the identification of the class members, a matter capable of ministerial determination from defendant's records, the records of its attorneys, or court files.

Questions readily answerable from defendant's files do not present an obstacle to class certification. Heastie v. Community Bank, 125 F.R.D. 669 (N.D.Ill. 1989) (court found that common issues predominated where individual questions of injury and damages could be determined by "merely comparing the contract between the consumer and the contractor with the contract between the consumer and Community Bank").

In any event, the Seventh Circuit has held that the need for "separate proceedings of some character... to determine the entitlements of the individual class members to relief' should "not defeat class treatment of the question whether defendants violated [the law]." Carnegie v. Household Int'l, Inc., 376 F.3d 656, 661 (7th Cir. 2004). "Once that question is answered, if it is answered in favor of the class, a global settlement . . . will be a natural and appropriate sequel. And if there is no settlement, that won't be the end of the world. Rule 23 allows district courts to devise imaginative solutions to problems created by the presence in a class action litigation of individual damages issues. Those solutions include (1) bifurcating liability and damage trials with the same or different juries; (2) appointing a magistrate judge or special master to preside over individual damages proceedings; (3) decertifying the class after the liability trial and providing notice to class member concerning how they may proceed to prove damages; (4) creating subclasses; or (5) altering or amending the class." Id.

C. Rule 23(a)(3) -- Typicality

The rule requires that the claims of the named plaintiff be typical of the claims of the class:

> A plaintiff's claim is typical if it arises from the same event or practice or course of conduct that gives rise to the claims of other class members and his or her claims are based on the same legal theory. The typicality requirement may be satisfied even if there are factual distinctions between the claims of the named plaintiffs and those of other class members. Thus, similarity of legal theory may control even in the face of differences of fact.

De La Fuente v. Stokely-Van Camp, Inc., 713 F.2d 225, 232 (7th Cir. 1983) (citation omitted).

In the instant case, typicality is inherent in the class definition. By definition, each of the class members has been subjected to the same practice as the plaintiff.

D. Rule 23(a)(4) -- Adequacy of representation

The rule also requires that the named plaintiff provide fair and adequate protection for the interests of the class. That protection involves two factors: (a) the plaintiff's attorney must be qualified, experienced, and generally able to conduct the proposed litigation; and (b) the plaintiff must not have interests antagonistic to those of the class. Rosario v. Livaditis, 963 F.2d 1013, 1018 (7th Cir. 1992); accord, Wetzel v. Liberty Mutual Ins. Co., 508 F.2d 239, 247 (3d Cir. 1975); In re Alcoholic Beverages Litigation, 95 F.R.D. 321.

Plaintiff understands the obligations of a class representative, and has retained experienced counsel, as is indicated by <u>Appendix C</u>, which sets forth counsel's qualifications.

The second relevant consideration under Rule 23(a)(4) is whether the interests of the named plaintiff are coincident with the general interests of the class. Here, both plaintiff and the class members seek money damages as the result of defendant's unlawful collection practices. Given the identity of claims between plaintiff and the class members, there is no potential for conflicting interests in this action. There is no antagonism between the interests of the named plaintiff and those of the class.

E. Rule 23(b)(3) -- Class action is superior to other available methods of resolving this controversy

Efficiency is the primary focus in determining whether the class action is the superior method for resolving the controversy presented. Eovaldi v. First Nat'l Bank, 57 F.R.D. 545 (N.D. Ill. 1972). The Court is required to determine the best available method for resolving the controversy in keeping with judicial integrity, convenience, and economy. Scholes, 143 F.R.D. at 189; Hurwitz v. R.B. Jones Corp., 76 F.R.D. 149 (W.D.Mo. 1977). It is proper for a court, in deciding the "best" available method, to consider the "... inability of the poor or uninformed to enforce their rights, and the improbability that large numbers of class members would possess the initiative to litigate individually." Haynes v. Logan Furniture Mart, Inc., 503 F.2d 1161, 1165 (7th Cir. 1974).

In this case there is no better method available for the adjudication of the claims

which might be brought by each individual debtor. The vast majority of debtors are undoubtedly unaware that their rights are being violated. In addition, persons from whom defendant is attempting to collect allegedly delinquent debts are, by definition, unlikely to be able to pay to retain counsel to protect their rights on an individual basis.

The special efficacy of the consumer class action has been noted by the courts and is applicable to this case:

A class action permits a large group of claimants to have their claims adjudicated in a single lawsuit. This is particularly important where, as here, a large number of small and medium sized claimants may be involved. In light of the awesome costs of discovery and trial, many of them would not be able to secure relief if class certification were denied

<u>In re Folding Carton Antitrust Litigation</u>, 75 F.R.D. 727, 732 (N.D. Ill. 1977) (citations omitted). Another court noted:

Given the relatively small amount recoverable by each potential litigant, it is unlikely that, absent the class action mechanism, any one individual would pursue his claim, or even be able to retain an attorney willing to bring the action. As Professors Wright, Miller and Kane have discussed, in analyzing consumer protection class actions such as the instant one, 'typically the individual claims are for small amounts, which means that the injured parties would not be able to bear the significant litigation expenses involved in suing a large corporation on an individual basis. These financial barriers may be overcome by permitting the suit to be brought by one or more consumers on behalf of others who are similarly situated.' 7B Wright et al., §1778, at 59; see e.g., Phillips Petroleum Co. v. Shutts, 472 U.S. 797, 809 (1985) ('Class actions . . . may permit the plaintiff to pool claims which would be uneconomical to litigate individually.') The public interest in seeing that the rights of consumers are vindicated favors the disposition of the instant claims in a class action form.

Lake v. First Nationwide Bank, 156 F.R.D. 615, 628-629 (E.D.Pa 1994).

Class certification will provide an efficient and appropriate resolution of the controversy. Zanni, 119 F.R.D. 32.

V. CONCLUSION

The proposed class meets the requirements of Rules 23(a) and (b)(3). Plaintiff respectfully requests that this Court certify this action as a class action.

Respectfully submitted,

s/ Daniel A. Edelman Daniel A. Edelman

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Daniel A. Edelman, hereby certify that on May 21, 2008, the foregoing document was filed electronically. A copy of the foregoing document was sent via U.S. Mail to:

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> s/ Daniel A. Edelman Daniel A. Edelman

APPENDIX A



Division: Civil Click on Case Number for Case Information Summary

Name Search Results for: CSGA

Case Number	<u>Plaintiff</u>	<u>Defendant</u>	Date Filed
2008-M1-128580	CSGA LLC	ALVARADO JOSE	04/08/2008
2008-M1-128581	CSGA LLC	MALIK MAHAMMAD	04/08/2008
2008-M1-128582	CSGA LLC	CHUNG CHI WON	04/08/2008
2008-M1-128583	CSGA LLC	MIK HENRYK	04/08/2008
2008-M1-128584	CSGA LLC	PHILLIPS PATRICIA	04/08/2008
2008-M1-128585	CSGA LLC	TELLIS LINDA	04/08/2008
2008-M1-128587	CSGA LLC	PRUETT RAYMOND	04/08/2008
2008-M1-128588	CSGA LLC	HARRIS MARY	04/08/2008
2008-M1-128590	CSGA LLC	DUDEK THERESE	04/08/2008
2008-M1-128591	CSGA LLC	VENTURA RICKY	04/08/2008
2008-M1-128592	CSGA LLC	MENDOZA RHODORA	04/08/2008
2008-M1-128593	CSGA LLC	CARDONA LUIS	04/08/2008
2008-M1-128594	CSGA LLC	GAVOS ATHANASIOS	04/08/2008
2008-M1-12859 <u>6</u>	CSGA LLC	JAMIESON JOAN	04/08/2008
2008-M1-128603	CSGA LLC	MONROE VIVIAN	04/08/2008
2008-M1-128604	CSGA LLC	MANDA TURER	04/08/2008
2008-M1-127161	CSGA LLC	MASON WALLINE	04/03/2008
2008-M1-127170	CSGA LLC	FLOWERS MARY	04/03/2008
2008-M1-127195	CSGA LLC	YONDORF JOHN	04/03/2008
2008-M1-127196	CSGA LLC	AVELAR MANUEL	04/03/2008
2008-M1-127197	CSGA LLC	VELASQUEZ DULLIER	04/03/2008
2008-M1-127198	CSGA LLC	NORRIS SHERRY	04/03/2008
2008-M1-127199	CSGA LLC	PEREZ-DELGADO MARI	04/03/2008
2008-M1-127200	CSGA LLC	MAULDIN FREDDIE	04/03/2008
2008-M1-127201	CSGA LLC	HOLLEY TERESA	04/03/2008
2008-M1-127202	CSGA LLC	NITSUD NOSNHOL	04/03/2008

2008-M1-127203	CSGA LLC	HALL WYCONDA	04/03/2008
2008-M1-127204	CSGA LLC	FLEMING JOHN	04/03/2008
2008-M1-127206	CSGA LLC	SILVA ROBERTO	04/03/2008
2008-M1-127207	CSGA LLC	LUBERDA THOMAS	04/03/2008
2008-M1-127208	CSGA LLC	PERKINS PAMELA	04/03/2008
2008-M1-127209	CSGA LLC	MYLES INGRID	04/03/2008
2008-M1-127210	CSGA LLC	MOORE DEBRA	04/03/2008
2008-M1-127211	CSGA LLC	ARREZ ERNESTO	04/03/2008
2008-M1-127212	CSGA LLC	BEAL DENISE	04/03/2008
2008-M1-127213	CSGA LLC	DRINANE PAULINE	04/03/2008
2008-M1-127214	CSGA LLC	MCLEAN LOREN	04/03/2008
2008-M1-127215	CSGA LLC	CARTER DENISE	04/03/2008
2008-M1-127216	CSGA LLC	MAIDA RALPH	04/03/2008
2008-M1-127218	CSGA LLC	ZAROTYNSKA WALTER	04/03/2008
2008-M1-127219	CSGA LLC	HULSMAN ALAN	04/03/2008
2008-M1-127222	CSGA LLC	SAMIS ERIKA	04/03/2008
2008-M1-127223	CSGA LLC	PATEL SAMIRKUMAR	04/03/2008
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2008-M1-115844	CSGA LLC	MONSON GERTRUDE	02/26/2008
2008-M1-115846	CSGA LLC	COOK WILLESTER	02/26/2008
2008-M1-115847	CSGA LLC	PITTS ETHEL	02/26/2008
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2008-M1-115854	CSGA LLC	ZAIDI SYED R	02/26/2008
2008-M1-115855	CSGA LLC	RYOO DUCK	02/26/2008
2008-M1-115857	CSGA LLC	DUVNJAK JANKO	02/26/2008
2008-M1-115858	CSGA LLC	SUBOTIC BRANKICA	02/26/2008
2008-M1-115859	CSGA LLC	KANDILERAKIS ANTON	02/26/2008
2008-M1-115864	CSGA LLC	HIBBLER MAGENA	02/26/2008
2008-M1-115865	CSGA LLC	KIM HUI	02/26/2008
2008-M1-115867	CSGA LLC	PERSON SUSAN	02/26/2008
2008-M1-115870	CSGA LLC	MELTOW THOMAS	02/26/2008
2008-M1-115871	CSGA LLC	ALI MOHAMMED	02/26/2008
2008-M1-115872	CSGA LLC	FEGANS BRITTANY	02/26/2008
2008-M1-115873	CSGA LLC	POTTER JAMES F	02/26/2008
2008-M1-115876	CSGA LLC	JOHNSON JONATHAN	02/26/2008
2008-M1-115878	CSGA LLC	LUCIOBURCIAGA GABR	02/26/2008

2008-M1-115883	CSGA LLC	LAPIETRA JAMES	02/26/2008
2008-M1-115884	CSGA LLC	GONZALEZ JUAN	02/26/2008
2008-M1-109261	CSGA LLC	RONGA ANITA	02/05/2008
2008-M1-109292	CSGA LLC	BEASLEY BOBBIE	02/05/2008
2008-M1-109298	CSGA LLC	BENSINGER WESLEY	02/05/2008
2008-M1-109308	CSGA LLC	PETROPOULOS BARBAR	02/05/2008
2008-M1-109317	CSGA LLC	CHANTHAROJWONGSE T	02/05/2008
2008-M1-109319	CSGA LLC	ZEMAITIS AUDRIUS	02/05/2008
2008-M1-109320	CSGA LLC	TYLER PATRICK	02/05/2008
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2008-M1-109333	CSGA LLC	DONNELLY PATRICK	02/05/2008
2008-M1-109334	CSGA LLC	GRADINARU DEBORA	02/05/2008
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2008-M1-109341	CSGA LLC	ULEWICZ DARIUSZ	02/05/2008
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2008-M1-109361	CSGA LLC	HUSNI KHALED	02/05/2008
2008-M1-109362	CSGA LLC	WILKINS WILLIE	02/05/2008
2008-M1-109363	CSGA LLC	HOYLE HELEN	02/05/2008
2008-M1-109364	CSGA LLC	BERGQUIST SANDRA	02/05/2008
2008-M1-109365	CSGA LLC	TAYLOR HELEN	02/05/2008
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2008-M1-109367	CSGA LLC	BURKS SAMUEL	02/05/2008
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2007-M1-257116	CSGA LLC	RANDALL MICHAEL	12/28/2007
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2007-M1-257119	CSGA LLC	TEKIELA ANDRZEJ	12/28/2007
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2007-M1-220811	. CSGA LLC	PAOLELLA FRANK	12/05/2007
2007-M1-216384	CSGA LLC	MICHAEL HAUPT	11/20/2007
2007-M1-216399	CSGA LLC	HEREDIA HUSTAVO	11/20/2007
2007-M1-216408	CSGA LLC	AMAYA JUANA	11/20/2007
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2007-M1-213506	CSGA LLC	ADVANI RAMESH	11/13/2007
2007-M1-213507	CSGA LLC	KIM MONICA	11/13/2007
<u>2007-M1-213508</u>	CSGA LLC	MCCLINTOCK KARA	11/13/2007
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2007-M1-213510	CSGA LLC	CHAN DANIEL	11/13/2007
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2007-M1-204531	CSGA LLC	RODRIGUEZ LISA	10/19/2007
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2007-M1-196422	CSGA LLC	BUCKNER CAROLYN	09/27/2007
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2007-M1-190151	CSGA LLC	RUDNY EWA	09/11/2007
2007-M1-190152	CSGA LLC	ZAFAR IQBAL	09/11/2007
2007-M1-190153	CSGA LLC	KOUTSOUKOS ANASTAS	09/11/2007
2007-M1-190154	CSGA LLC	IBRAHIM NIDAL	09/11/2007
2007-M1-190156	CSGA LLC	BROWDER LEZLIE S	09/11/2007
2006-M1-188867	CSGA LLC	LESTER DIANE	11/14/2006

Page 7 of 7

Return to Search Page

APPENDIX B

- 1. ADAMS;HELEN, 08LM 0000052, 2/11/2008, JUDGMENT, PEORIA COUNTY, ILLINOIS **BRONSON & MIGLIACCIO**
- 2. BENNETT; NICOLE, et al., 08SC 0000031, 1/29/2008, JUDGMENT, KANE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
- 3. BLANTON; TERENCE, 08SC 0000084, 2/14/2008, JUDGMENT, MACON COUNTY, ILLINOIS CSGA LLC
- 4. BLUM; WILLIAM, 08SC 0001222, 4/22/2008, JUDGMENT, LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS CSGA LLC
- 5. CALABRESE; MICHAEL, 08SC 0001306, 3/24/2008, JUDGMENT, WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS CSGA LLC
- 6. CSGA LLC v. KOLB; KIM, 08AR 0000021, 1/4/2008, CIVIL SUIT, LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS CSGA LLC
- 7. CSGA LLC v. KANTA;RITA, 08SC 0002234, 3/17/2008, CIVIL SUIT, LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS CSGA LLC
- 8. CSGA LLC v. BARTOLOTTA; FARO, 08SC 0002235, 3/17/2008, CIVIL SUIT, LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS **CSGA LLC**
- 9. CSGA LLC v. LOPEZ;HORACIO, 08SC 0002236, 3/17/2008, CIVIL SUIT, LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS CSGA LLC
- 10. CSGA LLC v. TURCOTTE;SUZANNE, 08SC 0002238, 3/17/2008, CIVIL SUIT, LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS CSGA LLC
- 11. CSGA LLC v. HAMRICK; WILLLIAM, 08SC 0000169, 1/4/2008, CIVIL SUIT, LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS CSGA LLC
- 12. CSGA LLC v. ROSE;ED, 08SC 0000553, 2/8/2008, CIVIL SUIT, MCHENRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS CSGA LLC
- 13. CSGA LLC v. TROY; VALERIE, 08SC 0000561, 2/11/2008, CIVIL SUIT, MCHENRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS CSGA LLC
- 14. CSGA LLC v. RONGA; ANITA, 08M1 0109261, 2/5/2008, CIVIL SUIT, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS 1ST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT CSGA LLC
- 15. CSGA LLC v. BEASLEY; BOBBIE, 08M1 0109292, 2/5/2008, CIVIL SUIT, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS IST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT CSGA LLC
- 16. CSGA LLC v. BENSINGER; WESLEY, 08M1 0109298, 2/5/2008, CIVIL SUIT, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS -**IST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT CSGA LLC**
- 17. CSGA LLC v. PETROPOULOS; BARBARA, 08M1 0109308, 2/5/2008, CIVIL SUIT, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS - IST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT **CSGA LLC**

- 18. CSGA LLC v. CHANTHROJWONGSE; TANATPHOL, 08M1 0109317, 2/5/2008, CIVIL SUIT, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS - 1ST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT CSGA LLC
- 19. CSGA LLC v. ZEMAITIS; AUDRIUS, 08M1 0109319, 2/5/2008, CIVIL SUIT, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS -**IST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT** CSGA LLC
- 20. CSGA LLC v. TYLER; PATRICK, 08MI 0109320, 2/5/2008, CIVIL SUIT, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS 1ST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT **CSGA LLC**
- 21. CSGA LLC v. SAN VICENTE; SALVADOR, 08M1 0109322, 2/5/2008, CIVIL SUIT, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS - IST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT **CSGA LLC**
- 22. CSGA LLC v. BOLINE; VERA, 08M1 0109326, 2/5/2008, CIVIL SUIT, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS 1ST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT CSGA LLC
- 23. CSGA LLC v. MULKERRINS; THOMAS, 08MI 0109327, 2/5/2008, CIVIL SUIT, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS -IST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT CSGA LLC
- 24. CSGA LLC v. SAUCEDA; ROSALINA, 08M1 0109329, 2/5/2008, CIVIL SUIT, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS -1ST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT CSGA LLC
- 25. CSGA LLC v. HONORE; MARIE, 08M1 0109330, 2/5/2008, CIVIL SUIT, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS 1ST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT CSGA LLC
- 26. CSGA LLC v. AVILES; NORMA, 08M1 0109332, 2/5/2008, CIVIL SUIT, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS IST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT CSGA LLC
- 27. CSGA LLC v. DONNELLY; PATRICK, 08M1 0109333, 2/5/2008, CIVIL SUIT, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS -IST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT CSGA LLC
- 28. CSGA LLC v. GRADINARU; DEBORA, 08M1 0109334, 2/5/2008, CIVIL SUIT, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS -IST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT **CSGA LLC**
- 29. CSGA LLC v. RUHDEEN; JEAN, 08M1 0109340, 2/5/2008, CIVIL SUIT, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS 1ST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT CSGA LLC
- 30. CSGA LLC v. ULEWICZ; DARIUSZ, 08MI 0109341, 2/5/2008, CIVIL SUIT, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS 1ST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT CSGA LLC
- 31. CSGA LLC v. VARGHEFE; THOMAS, 08M1 0109342, 2/5/2008, CIVIL SUIT, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS -1ST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT **CSGA LLC**

- 32. CSGA LLC v. NICHOLS; FREDRICK, 08M1 0109344, 2/5/2008, CIVIL SUIT, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS -IST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT **CSGA LLC**
- 33. CSGA LLC v. ADAMONIS; AUDRIUS, 08M1 0109353, 2/5/2008, CIVIL SUIT, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS -**IST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT** CSGA LLC
- 34. CSGA LLC v. WILKINS; WILLIE, 08M1 0109362, 2/5/2008, CIVIL SUIT, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS 1ST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT CSGA LLC
- 35. CSGA LLC v. HOYLE; HELEN, 08M1 0109363, 2/5/2008, CIVIL SUIT, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS 1ST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT CSGA LLC
- 36. CSGA LLC v. BERGQUIST; SANDRA, 08MI 0109364, 2/5/2008, CIVIL SUIT, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS -IST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT CSGA LLC
- 37. CSGA LLC v. TAYLOR; HELEN, 08MI 0109365, 2/5/2008, CIVIL SUIT, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS IST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT CSGA LLC
- 38. CSGA LLC v. RUSSELL; CHERYL, 08MI 0109366, 2/5/2008, CIVIL SUIT, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS 1ST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT CSGA LLC
- 39. CSGA LLC v. BURKS; SAMUEL, 08M1 0109367, 2/5/2008, CIVIL SUIT, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS 1ST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT CSGA LLC
- 40. CSGA LLC v. MATUS; CESAR, 08M1 0109368, 2/5/2008, CIVIL SUIT, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS IST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT CSGA LLC
- 41. CSGA LLC v. CAMPBELL; BOBBY, 08MI 0109369, 2/5/2008, CIVIL SUIT, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS 1ST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT CSGA LLC
- 42. CSGA LLC v. REYES; LINDA, 08M1 0109370, 2/5/2008, CIVIL SUIT, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS 1ST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT CSGA LLC
- 43. CSGA LLC v. IBARDALOZA; AMADOR, 08M1 0109371, 2/5/2008, CIVIL SUIT, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS - IST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT CSGA LLC
- 44. CSGA LLC v. POWELL; VERONICA, 08M1 0109372, 2/5/2008, CIVIL SUIT, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS -**IST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT** CSGA LLC
- 45. CSGA LLC v. MUSKA; DUANE, 08M1 0109373, 2/5/2008, CIVIL SUIT, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS 1ST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT **CSGA LLC**

- 46. CSGA LLC v. MAITRE; SARAH, 08M1 0109374, 2/5/2008, CIVIL SUIT, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS 1ST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT CSGA LLC
- 47. CSGA LLC v. MALIK; MAHAMMAD, 08M1 0128581, 4/8/2008, CIVIL SUIT, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS -IST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT CSGA LLC
- 48. CSGA LLC v. CHUNG; CHI WON, 08M1 0128582, 4/8/2008, CIVIL SUIT, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS IST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT CSGA LLC
- 49. CSGA LLC v. MIK; HENRYK, 08M1 0128583, 4/8/2008, CIVIL SUIT, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS 1ST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT **CSGA LLC**
- 50. CSGA LLC v. PHILLIPS; PATRICIA, 08M1 0128584, 4/8/2008, CIVIL SUIT, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS 1ST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT CSGA LLC
- 51. CSGA LLC v. TELLIS; LINDA, 08M1 0128585, 4/8/2008, CIVIL SUIT, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS 1ST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT **CSGA LLC**
- 52. CSGA LLC v. PRUETT; RAYMOND, 08M1 0128587, 4/8/2008, CIVIL SUIT, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS 1ST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT **CSGA LLC**
- 53. CSGA LLC v. HARRIS; MARY, 08MI 0128588, 4/8/2008, CIVIL SUIT, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS 1ST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT **CSGA LLC**
- 54. CSGA LLC v. DUDEK; THERESE, 08M1 0128590, 4/8/2008, CIVIL SUIT, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS 1ST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT CSGA LLC
- 55. CSGA LLC v. MENDOZA; RHODORA, 08M1 0128592, 4/8/2008, CIVIL SUIT, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS -IST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT CSGA LLC
- 56. CSGA LLC v. CARDONA; LUIS, 08M1 0128593, 4/8/2008, CIVIL SUIT, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS IST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT **CSGA LLC**
- 57. CSGA LLC v. GAVOS; ATHANASIOS, 08M1 0128594, 4/8/2008, CIVIL SUIT, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS -1ST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT **CSGA LLC**
- 58. CSGA LLC v. MONROE; VIVIAN, 08M1 0128603, 4/8/2008, CIVIL SUIT, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS 1ST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT **CSGA LLC**
- 59. CSGA LLC v. MANDA; TURER, 08M1 0128604, 4/8/2008, CIVIL SUIT, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS 1ST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT **CSGA LLC**

- 60. CSGA LLC v. NARVAEZ; JUDITH, 08MI 0115839, 2/26/2008, CIVIL SUIT, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS 1ST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT **CSGA LLC**
- 61. CSGA LLC v. MONSON; GERTRUDE E, 08M1 0115844, 2/26/2008, CIVIL SUIT, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS - 1ST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT CSGA LLC
- 62. CSGA LLC v. COOK; WILLESTER, 08M1 0115846, 2/26/2008, CIVIL SUIT, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS 1ST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT **CSGA LLC**
- 63. CSGA LLC v. PITTS; ETHEL, 08M1 0115847, 2/26/2008, CIVIL SUIT, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS 1ST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT CSGA LLC
- 64. CSGA LLC v. KHAN; CHANTAL, 08M1 0115850, 2/26/2008, CIVIL SUIT, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS 1ST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT CSGA LLC
- 65. CSGA LLC v. JEZIORKOWSKI; KATHY, 08MI 0115851, 2/26/2008, CIVIL SUIT, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS - IST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT CSGA LLC
- 66. CSGA LLC v. HAGANS; ARLANA, 08M1 0115853, 2/26/2008, CIVIL SUIT, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS IST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT CSGA LLC
- 67. CSGA LLC v. ZAIDI; SYED, 08MI 0115854, 2/26/2008, CIVIL SUIT, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS 1ST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT CSGA LLC
- 68. CSGA LLC v. RYOO; DUCK, 08M1 0115855, 2/26/2008, CIVIL SUIT, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS 1ST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT **CSGA LLC**
- 69. CSGA LLC v. DUVNJAK; JANKO, 08M1 0115857, 2/26/2008, CIVIL SUIT, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS IST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT **CSGA LLC**
- 70. CSGA LLC v. SUBOTIC; BRANKICA, 08M1 0115858, 2/26/2008, CIVIL SUIT, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS -IST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT CSGA LLC
- 71. CSGA LLC v. KANDILERAKIS; ANTONIA, 08M1 0115859, 2/26/2008, CIVIL SUIT, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS - IST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT **CSGA LLC**
- 72. CSGA LLC v. HIBBLER; NAGENA, 08M1 0115864, 2/26/2008, CIVIL SUIT, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS 1ST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT CSGA LLC
- 73. CSGA LLC v. KIM; HUI, 08M1 0115865, 2/26/2008, CIVIL SUIT, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS 1ST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT **CSGA LLC**

- 74. CSGA LLC v. PERSON; SUSAN, 08M1 0115867, 2/26/2008, CIVIL SUIT, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS 1ST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT **CSGA LLC**
- 75. CSGA LLC v. MELTOW; THOMAS J, 08M1 0115870, 2/26/2008, CIVIL SUIT, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS -IST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT CSGA LLC
- 76. CSGA LLC v. ALI; LAL, 08M1 0115871, 2/26/2008, CIVIL SUIT, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS 1ST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT CSGA LLC
- 77. CSGA LLC v. PEGANS; BRITTANY, 08MI 0115872, 2/26/2008, CIVIL SUIT, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS -IST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT CSGA LLC
- 78. CSGA LLC v. POTTER; F JAMES, 08M1 0115873; 2/26/2008, CIVIL SUIT, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS 1ST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT **CSGA LLC**
- 79. CSGA LLC v. JOHNSON; JONATHAN, 08M1 0115876, 2/26/2008, CIVIL SUIT, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS -IST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT CSGA LLC
- 80. CSGA LLC v. LUCIOBURCIAGA; GABRIELA, 08M1 0115878, 2/26/2008, CIVIL SUIT, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS - IST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT CSGA LLC
- 81. CSGA LLC v. LAPIETRA; JAMES, 08M1 0115883, 2/26/2008, CIVIL SUIT, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS 1ST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT CSGA LLC
- 82. CSGA LLC v. GONZALEZ; JUAN, 08M1 0115884, 2/26/2008, CIVIL SUIT, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS 1ST MUNICIPAL DÍSTRICT **CSGA LLC**
- 83. CSGA LLC v. HURTADO; MARIA, 08SC 0001864, 4/7/2008, CIVIL SUIT, KANE COUNTY, ILLINOIS **CSGA LLC**
- 84. CSGA LLC v. GREEN; RUTHIE, 08SC 0001865, 4/7/2008, CIVIL SUIT, KANE COUNTY, ILLINOIS CSGA LLC
- 85. CSGA LLC v. HAVERTY; SEAN, 08SC 0002454, 3/24/2008, CIVIL SUIT, WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS CSGA LLC
- 86. CSGA LLC v. BURKS; GABRIELLE, 08SC 0002455, 3/24/2008, CIVIL SUIT, WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS CSGA LLC
- 87. CSGA LLC v. GOODMAN; JOANN, 08SC 0001300, 2/13/2008, CIVIL SUIT, WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS CSGA LLC
- 88. CSGA LLC v. YOUNG; ERIN, 08SC 0001301, 2/13/2008, CIVIL SUIT, WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS CSGA LLC
- 89. CSGA LLC v. ZAMBRANO; RICARDO, 08SC 0001302, 2/13/2008, CIVIL SUIT, WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS CSGA LLC

- 90. CSGA LLC v. RODRIGUEZ; AURTHER, 08SC 0001304, 2/13/2008, CIVIL SUIT, WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS CSGA LLC
- 91. CSGA LLC v. CALABRESE;MICHAEL, 08SC 0001306, 2/13/2008, CIVIL SUIT, WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS CSGA LLC
- 92. CSGA LLC v. VILLARREAL;ESTELLA, 08SC 0001236, 4/4/2008, CIVIL SUIT, MCHENRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS CSGA LLC
- 93. CSGA LLC v. SPENCE; KIMBERLY, 08SC 0001237, 4/4/2008, CIVIL SUIT, MCHENRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS CSGA LLC
- 94. CSGA LLC v. STERN;LISA, 08SC 0001238, 4/4/2008, CIVIL SUIT, MCHENRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS CSGA LLC
- 95. CSGA LLC v. JULIANO; ANTHONY, 08SC 0001239, 4/4/2008, CIVIL SUIT, MCHENRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS CSGA LLC
- 96. CSGA LLC v. BLUM; WILLIAM, 08SC 0001222, 2/8/2008, CIVIL SUIT, LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS CSGA LLC
- 97. CSGA LLC v. GRISALES;DAMARIS, 08SC 0001225, 2/8/2008, CIVIL SUIT, LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS CSGA LLC
- 98. CSGA LLC v. SANCHEZ;OLEGARIO, 08SC 0001227, 2/8/2008, CIVIL SUIT, LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS CSGA LLC
- 99. CSGA LLC v. WILSON;LEO, 08SC 0001229, 2/8/2008, CIVIL SUIT, LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS CSGA LLC
- 100. CSGA LLC v. MERCADO; LUIS, 08SC 0001231, 2/8/2008, CIVIL SUIT, LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS CSGA LLC
- 101. CSGA LLC v. SCHNEIDER;DAVID, 08SC 0001260, 2/8/2008, CIVIL SUIT, LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS CSGA LLC
- 102. CSGA LLC v. KOMISTRA;STEPHANIE, 08SC 0001010, 2/26/2008, CIVIL SUIT, KANE COUNTY, ILLINOIS CSGA LLC
- 103. CSGA LLC v. HOWARD;BETTY, 08SC 0001011, 2/26/2008, CIVIL SUIT, KANE COUNTY, ILLINOIS CSGA LLC
- 104. CSGA LLC v. THOMAS; JERRY, 08SC 0001012, 2/26/2008, CIVIL SUIT, KANE COUNTY, ILLINOIS CSGA LLC
- 105. CSGA LLC v. MANDRELLE; RICHARD, 08SC 0001351, 3/12/2008, CIVIL SUIT, KANE COUNTY, ILLINOIS CSGA LLC
- 106. CSGA LLC v. WHITEHORN; RENATA, 08SC 0001352, 3/12/2008, CIVIL SUIT, KANE COUNTY, ILLINOIS CSGA LLC
- 107. CSGA LLC v. STOMBRES; MARGARET, et al., 08SC 0001355, 3/12/2008, CIVIL SUIT, KANE COUNTY, ILLINOIS CSGA LLC
- 108. CSGA v. BENNETT; NICOLE, et al., 08SC 0000031, 1/2/2008, CIVIL SUIT, KANE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

CSGA

- 109. CSGA v. ELAM; JASON, 08SC 0000027, 1/2/2008, CIVIL SUIT, KANE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
- 110. CSGA v. GRAF; JAMES, 08SC 0001350, 3/12/2008, CIVIL SUIT, KANE COUNTY, ILLINOIS **CSGA**
- 111. CSGA v. HERRERA; JULIO, 08SC 0000030, 1/2/2008, CIVIL SUIT, KANE COUNTY, ILLINOIS CSGA
- 112. CSGA v. MAYBERRY; LARRY, 08SC 0001353, 3/12/2008, CIVIL SUIT, KANE COUNTY, ILLINOIS CSGA
- 113. CSGA v. PANTOJA; ALEJANDRO, 08SC 0000028, 1/2/2008, CIVIL SUIT, KANE COUNTY, ILLINOIS CSGA
- 114. CSGA v. PISZCZEK;ADAM, 08SC 0000033, 1/2/2008, CIVIL SUIT, KANE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
- 115. CSGA v. RODRIGUEZ;ANGELAC, 08SC 0000035, 1/2/2008, CIVIL SUIT, KANE COUNTY, ILLINOIS CSGA
- 116. CSGA v. SCHILDGEN; PHILLIP, 08SC 0000039, 1/2/2008, CIVIL SUIT, KANE COUNTY, ILLINOIS CSGA
- 117. CSGA v. WITT; CARL H, 08SC 0000122, 1/4/2008, CIVIL SUIT, KANE COUNTY, ILLINOIS CSGA
- 118. ELAM; JASON, 08SC 0000027, 1/29/2008, JUDGMENT, KANE COUNTY, ILLINOIS **CSGA**
- 119. GRISALES; DAMARIS, 08SC 0001225, 4/22/2008, JUDGMENT, LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS CSGA LLC
- 120. HADLEY; GAYLA, 08SC 0000258, 2/15/2008, JUDGMENT, SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS **CSGA LLC**
- 121. HOWARD; BETTY, 08SC 0001011, 4/2/2008, JUDGMENT, KANE COUNTY, ILLINOIS CSGA LLC
- 122. MOORE; ANTONETTE, 08AR 0000031, 2/19/2008, JUDGMENT, ST. CLAIR COUNTY, ILLINOIS CSGA LLC **BRONSON & MIGLIAICCIO LLP**
- 123. PICKENS; SAM, 08M1 0105332, 3/6/2008, JUDGMENT, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS 1ST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

CSGA LLC

BRONSON & MIGLIACCIO

- 124. PISZCZEK; ADAM, 08SC 0000033, 1/29/2008, JUDGMENT, KANE COUNTY, ILLINOIS CSGA
- 125. POPE; TRUMAN, 08LM 0000008, 4/8/2008, JUDGMENT, KANKAKEE COUNTY, ILLINOIS **CSGA LLC**
- 126. RODRIGUEZ; ANGELAC, 08SC 0000035, 1/29/2008, JUDGMENT, KANE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

CSGA

- 127. STEAR; RONALD, 08SC 0000118, 2/11/2008, JUDGMENT, PEORIA COUNTY, ILLINOIS **BRONSON & MIGLIACHO**
- 128. SUPRENANT; ARMAND, 08SC 0000046, 2/1/2008, JUDGMENT, KANKAKEE COUNTY, ILLINOIS CSGA LLC **BRONSON & MIGLIACCIO LLP**
- 129. WILLIAMS; JACQUELINE, 08SC 0000269, 2/15/2008, JUDGMENT, SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS CSGA LLC
- 130. MISHLER, MARY, 08SC9, SMALL CLAIMS JUDGMENT, 01/30/2008, IL JUDGMENTS AND LIENS **CSGA LLC**
- 131. ELAM, JASON, 08SC000027, SMALL CLAIMS JUDGMENT, 01/29/2008, IL JUDGMENTS AND LIENS **CSGA**
- 132. BENNETT.NICOLE, 08SC000031, SMALL CLAIMS JUDGMENT, 01/29/2008, IL JUDGMENTS AND LIENS **CSGA**
- 133. BENNETT, SYDNEY, 08SC000031, SMALL CLAIMS JUDGMENT, 01/29/2008, IL JUDGMENTS AND LIENS **CSGA**
- 134. PISZCZEK,ADAM, 08SC000033, SMALL CLAIMS JUDGMENT, 01/29/2008, IL JUDGMENTS AND LIENS CSGA
- 135. RODRIGUEZ, ANGELAC, 08SC000035, SMALL CLAIMS JUDGMENT, 01/29/2008, 1L JUDGMENTS AND LIENS CSGA
- 136. ADAMS, HELEN, 08LM52, CIVIL JUDGMENT, 02/11/2008, IL JUDGMENTS AND LIENS **CSGA LLC**
- 137. STEAR, RONALD, 08SC118, SMALL CLAIMS JUDGMENT, 02/11/2008, IL JUDGMENTS AND LIENS CSGA LLC
- 138. HULL, HAROLD, 08SCII, SMALL CLAIMS JUDGMENT, 03/05/2008, IL JUDGMENTS AND LIENS **CSGA LLC**
- 139. SUPRENANT, ARMAND Jr, 08SC46, SMALL CLAIMS JUDGMENT, 02/01/2008, IL JUDGMENTS AND LIENS **CSGA LLC**

APPENDIX C

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS EASTERN DIVISION

LINDA TELLIS,)
individually and on behalf of the class)
defined herein,) 08-cv-2854
Plaintiff,)) Judge Darrah
,) Magistrate Judge Cox
VS.)
)
CSGA, LLC;)
BRONSON & MIGLIACCIO, LLP,)
H. BRUCE BRONSON, JR. and)
RICHARD J. MIGLIACCIO,)
)
Defendants.)

DECLARATION OF DANIEL A. EDELMAN

Daniel A. Edelman declares under penalty of perjury, as provided for by 28 U.S.C. §1746, that the following statements are true:

- **1.** Edelman, Combs, Latturner & Goodwin, LLC, has 5 principals, Daniel A. Edelman, Cathleen M. Combs, James O. Latturner, Tara L. Goodwin, and Michelle R. Teggelaar and 9 associates.
- **Daniel A. Edelman** is a 1976 graduate of the University of Chicago Law 2. School. From 1976 to 1981 he was an associate at the Chicago office of Kirkland & Ellis with heavy involvement in the defense of consumer class action litigation (such as the General Motors Engine Interchange cases). In 1981 he became an associate at Reuben & Proctor, a mediumsized firm formed by some former Kirkland & Ellis lawyers, and was made a partner there in 1982. From the end of 1985 he has been in private practice in downtown Chicago. Virtually all of his practice involves litigation on behalf of consumers, mostly through class actions. He is the co-author of Rosmarin & Edelman, Consumer Class Action Manual (2d-4th editions, National Consumer Law Center 1990, 1995 and 1999); author of Payday Loans: Big Interest Rates and Little Regulation, 11 Loy. Consumer L. Rptr. 174 (1999); author of Consumer Fraud and Insurance Claims, in Bad Faith and Extracontractual Damage Claims in Insurance Litigation, Chicago Bar Ass'n 1992; co-author of Chapter 8, "Fair Debt Collection Practices Act," Ohio Consumer Law (1995 ed.); co-author of Fair Debt Collection: The Need for Private Enforcement, 7 Loy. Consumer L. Rptr. 89 (1995); author of An Overview of The Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, in Financial Services Litigation, Practicing Law Institute (1999); coauthor of Residential Mortgage Litigation, in Financial Services Litigation, Practicing Law

Institute (1996); author of Automobile Leasing: Problems and Solutions, 7 Loy. Consumer L.Rptr. 14 (1994); author of Current Trends in Residential Mortgage Litigation, 12 Rev. of Banking & Financial Services 71 (April 24, 1996); author of Applicability of Illinois Consumer Fraud Act in Favor of Out-of-State Consumers, 8 Loy. Consumer L. Rptr. 27 (1996); co-author of Illinois Consumer Law (Chicago Bar Ass'n 1996); co-author of D. Edelman and M. A. Weinberg, Attorney Liability Under the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (Chicago Bar Ass'n 1996); author of The Fair Debt Collection Practices Act: Recent Developments, 8 Lov. Consumer L. Rptr. 303 (1996); author of Second Mortgage Frauds, Nat'l Consumer Rights Litigation Conference 67 (Oct. 19-20, 1992); and author of Compulsory Arbitration of Consumer Disputes, Nat'l Consumer Rights Litigation Conference 54, 67 (1994). He is a member of the Illinois bar and admitted to practice in the following courts: United States Supreme Court, Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals, First Circuit Court of Appeals, Second Circuit Court of Appeals, Third Circuit Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals, United States District Courts for the Northern and Southern Districts of Indiana, United States District Courts for the Northern, Central, and Southern Districts of Illinois, United States District Court for the District of Arizona, United States District Court for the District of Connecticut, and the Supreme Court of Illinois. He is a member of the Northern District of Illinois trial bar.

- 3. **Cathleen M. Combs** is a 1976 graduate of Loyola University Law School. She formerly supervised the Northwest office of the Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago, where she was lead or co-counsel in class actions in the areas of unemployment compensation, prison law, social security law, and consumer law. She joined what is now Edelman, Combs, Latturner & Goodwin, LLC in early 1991. Decisions in which she was involved prior to joining the firm include: <u>Johnson v. Heckler</u>, 607 F.Supp. 875 (N.D.Ill. 1984), and 100 F.R.D. 70 (N.D. Ill. 1983); Sanders v. Shephard, 185 Ill.App.3d 719, 541 N.E.2d 1150 (1st Dist. 1989); Maller v. Cohen, 176 Ill.App.3d 987, 531 N.E.2d 1029 (1st Dist. 1988); Wright v. Department of Labor, 166 Ill.App.3d 438, 519 N.E.2d 1054 (1st Dist. 1988); Barron v. Ward, 165 Ill.App.3d 653, 517 N.E.2d 591 (1st Dist. 1987); City of Chicago v. Leviton, 137 Ill.App.3d 126, 484 N.E.2d 438 (1st Dist. 1985); Jude v. Morrissey, 117 Ill.App.3d 782, 454 N.E.2d 24 (1st Dist. 1983). She is a member of the Northern District of Illinois trial bar.
- 4. **James O. Latturner** is a 1962 graduate of the University of Chicago Law School. Until 1969, he was an associate and then a partner at the Chicago law firm of Berchem, Schwanes & Thuma. From 1969 to 1995 he was Deputy Director of the Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago, where he specialized in consumer law, including acting as lead counsel in over 30 class actions. His publications include Chapter 8 ("Defendants") in Federal Practice Manual for Legal Services Attorneys (M. Masinter, Ed., National Legal Aid and Defender Association 1989); Governmental Tort Immunity in Illinois, 55 Ill.B.J. 29 (1966); Illinois Should Explicitly Adopt the Per Se Rule for Consumer Fraud Act Violations, 2 Loy. Consumer L. Rep. 64 (1990), and <u>Illinois Consumer Law</u> (Chicago Bar Ass'n 1996). He has taught in a nationwide series of 18 Federal Practice courses sponsored by the Legal Services Corporation, each lasting four days and designed for attorneys with federal litigation experience. He has argued some 30

appeals, including two cases in the United States Supreme Court and two in the Illinois Supreme Court. Mr. Latturner was involved in many of the significant decisions establishing the rights of Illinois consumers. He is a member of the Northern District of Illinois trial bar.

- 5. Tara L. Goodwin is a graduate of the University of Chicago (B.A., with general honors, 1988) and Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago-Kent College of Law (J.D., with high honors, 1991). She has been with the firm since her graduation and has participated in many of the cases described below. Reported Cases. Williams v. Chartwell Financial Services, LTD, 204 F.3d 748 (7th Cir. 2000); Hillenbrand v. Meyer Medical Group, 682 N.E.2d 101 (Ill.1st Dist. 1997), 720 N.E.2d 287 (Ill.1st Dist. 1999); Bessette v. Avco Fin. Servs., 230 F.3d 439 (1st Cir. 2000); Large v. Conseco Fin. Servicing Co., 292 F.3d 49 (1st Cir. 2002);; Carbajal v. Capital One, 219 F.R.D. 437 (N.D.Ill. 2004); Russo v. B&B Catering, 209 F.Supp.2d 857 (N.D.IL 2002); Garcia v. Village of Bensenville, 2002 U.S.Dist. LEXIS 3803 (N.D.Ill.); Romaker v. Crossland Mtg. Co., 1996 U.S.Dist. LEXIS 6490 (N.D.IL); Mount v. LaSalle Bank Lake View, 926 F.Supp. 759 (N.D.Ill 1996). She is a member of the Northern District of Illinois trial bar.
- 6. **Michelle R. Teggelaar** is a graduate of the University of Illinois (B.A., 1993) and Chicago-Kent College of Law, Illinois Institute of Technology (J.D., with honors, 1997). **Reported Cases:** Johnson v. Revenue Management, Inc., 169 F.3d 1057 (7th Cir.1999); Hernandez v. Attention, LLC, 429 F. Supp. 2d 912 (N.D. Ill. 2005); Coelho v. Park Ridge Oldsmobile, Inc., 247 F. Supp. 2d 1004 (N.D. Ill. 2003); Dominguez v. Alliance Mtge., Co., 226 F. Supp. 2d 907 (N.D. Ill. 2002); Watson v. CBSK Financial Group, Inc., 197 F. Supp. 2d 1118 (N.D. III. 2002); Van Jackson v. Check 'N Go of Illinois, Inc. 123 F. Supp. 2d 1085 (N.D. III. 2000), Van Jackson v. Check 'N Go of Illinois, Inc., 123 F. Supp. 2d 1079, Van Jackson v. Check 'N Go of Illinois, Inc., 114 F. Supp. 2d 731 (N.D. Ill. 2000); Van Jackson v. Check 'N Go of Illinois, Inc., 193 F.R.D. 544 (N.D. Ill. 2000); Vines v. Sands, 188 F.R.D. 302 (N.D. Ill. 1999); Veillard v. Mednick, 24 F. Supp. 2d 863 (N.D. Ill.1998); Sledge v. Sands, 182 F.R.D. 255 (N.D. III. 1998), Vines v. Sands, 188 F.R.D. 203 (N.D. III. 1999), Livingston v. Fast Cash USA, Inc., 753 N.E.2d 572 (Ind. 2001); Binder v. Atlantic Credit and Finance, Inc., 2007 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 11483 (S.D. Ind. 2007); Carroll v. Butterfield Heath Care, Inc., 2003 WL 22462604 (N.D. III. 2003); Payton v. New Century Mtge., Inc., 2003 WL 22349118 (N.D. III. 2003); Seidat v. Allied Interstate, Inc., 2003 WL 2146825 (N.D. Ill. 2003) (Report and Recommendation); Michalowski v. Flagstar Bank, FSB, 2002 WL 112905 (N.D. Ill. 2002); Bigalke v. Creditrust Corp., 2001 WL 1098047 (N.D. Ill 2001) (Report and Recommendation); Donnelly v. Illini Cash Advance, 2000 WL 1161076 (N.D. Ill. 2000); Mitchem v. Paycheck Advance Express, 2000 WL 419992 (N.D. Ill 2000); Pinkett v. Moolah Loan Co., 1999 WL 1080596 (N.D. Ill. 1999); Farley v. Diversified Collection Serv., 1999 WL 965496 (N.D. Ill. 1999); Davis v. Commercial Check Control, 1999 WL 965496 (N.D. Ill. 1999); Sledge v. Sands, 1999 WL 261745 (N.D. Ill. 1999); Slater v. Credit Sciences, Inc., 1998 WL 341631 (N.D. Ill. 1998); Slater v. Credit Sciences, Inc., 1998 WL 299803 (N.D. Ill. 1998).

7. Associates

- **Francis R. Greene** is a graduate of Johns Hopkins University (B.A., with honors, May 1984), Rutgers University (Ph.D., October 1991), and Northwestern University Law School (J.D., 2000). **Reported Cases:** Johnson v. Thomas, 342 Ill. App.3d 382, 794 N.E.2d 919 (1st Dist. 2003); Jolly v. Shapiro & Kreisman, 237 F. Supp. 2d 888 (N.D. Ill. 2002); Parker v. 1-800 Bar None, a Financial Corp., Inc. 2002 WL 215530 (N.D. Ill. 2002); Jiang v. Allstate Ins. Co. (199 F.R.D. 267); Hill v. AMOCO Oil Co. 2003 WL 262424, 2001 WL 293628 (N.D. Ill. 2003); Roquet v. Arthur Anderson LLP 2002 WL 1900768 (N.D. Ill. 2002); White v. Financial Credit, Corp. 2001 WL 1665386 (N.D. Ill.); Ransom v. Gurnee Volkswagen 2001 WL 1241297 (N.D. III. 2001) and 2002 WL 449703 (N.D. III 2002); Doxie v. Impac Funding Corp. 2002 WL 31045387 (N.D. III. 2002); Levin v. Kluever & Platt LLC 2003 WL 22757763 and 2003 WL 22757764 (N.D. Ill. 2003); Pleasant v. Risk Management Alternatives 2003 WL 22175390 (N.D. Ill. 2003); Jenkins v. Mercantile Mortgage 231 F. Supp. 2d 737 (N.D. Ill. 2002); Hobson v. Lincoln Ins. Agency, Inc. 2001 WL 55528, 2001 WL 648958 (N.D. Ill. 2001), Anderson v. Lincoln Ins. Agency 2003 WL 291928, Hobson v. Lincoln Ins. Agency 2003 WL 338161 (N.D. III. 2003); Handy v. Anchor Mortgage Corp., 464 F.3d 760 (7th Cir. 2006). He is a member of the Northern District of Illinois trial bar.
- b. Julie Clark (neé Cobolovic) is a graduate of Northern Illinois University (B.A., 1997) and DePaul University College of Law (J.D., 2000). Reported Cases: Qualkenbush v. Harris Trust & Savings Bank 219 F. Supp.2d 935 (N.D. Ill., 2002); Covington-McIntosh v. Mount Glenwood Memory Gardens 2002 WL 31369747 (N.D.I II., 2002), 2003 WL 22359626 (N.D. Ill. 2003); Ballard Nursing Center, Inc. v. GF Healthcare Products, Inc., 2007 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 84425 (N.D. Ill. Nov. 14, 2007); Record-A-Hit, Inc. v. Nat'l. Fire Ins. Co., No. 1-07-0684, 2007 III. App. LEXIS 1194 (III. App. 1st Dist. Nov. 13, 2007).
- **Heather A. Kolbus** (neé Piccirilli) is a graduate of DePaul c. University (B.S. cum laude, 1997), and Roger Williams University School of Law (J.D., 2002). Reported Cases: Clark v. Experian Info. Solutions, Inc., 2004 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 28324 (D.S.C. Jan. 14, 2004); DeFrancesco v. First Horizon Home Loan Corp., 2006 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 80718 (S.D. Ill. Nov. 2, 2006); Jeppesen v. New Century Mortgage Corp., 2006 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 84035 (N.D. Ind. Nov. 17, 2006); Benedia v. Super Fair Cellular, Inc., 2007 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 71911 (N.D. Ill. Sept. 26, 2007).
- **Thomas E. Soule** is a graduate of Stanford University (B.A., d. 2000), and the University of Wisconsin Law School (J.D., 2003). **Reported Cases:** Murray v. Sunrise Chevrolet, Inc., 441 F.Supp.2d 940 (N.D. Ill. 2006); Iosello v. Leiblys, Inc., 502 F. Supp.2d 782 (N.D. Ill. 2007); Claffey v. River Oaks Hyundai, Inc., 486 F. Supp.2d 776 (N.D. Ill. 2007).
- e. Cassandra P. Miller is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin – Madison (B.A. 2001) and John Marshall Law School (J.D. magna cum laude 2006). Reported Cases: Pietras v. Sentry Ins. Co., 513 F. Supp.2d 983 (N.D. Ill. 2007); Hernandez v. Midland Credit Mgmt., 2007 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 16054 (N.D. Ill. Sept. 25, 2007); Balogun v. Midland Credit Mgmt., 2007 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 74845 (S.D. Ind. Oct. 5, 2007).

- **f. Tiffany N. Hardy** (admitted NY, DC, IL) is a graduate of Tuskegee University (B.A. 1998) and Syracuse University College of Law (J.D.2001).
- **g. Zachary Jacobs** is a graduate of the University of South Dakota (B.S. 2002) and Chicago-Kent College of Law, Illinois Institute of Technology (J.D. 2007).
- **h. Rupali Shah** is a graduate of the University of Chicago (B.A. 2004) and University of Illinois College of Law (J.D. 2007).
- **i. Michael J. Aschenbrener** is a graduate of the University of Minnesota (B.A. 2001) and the Chicago-Kent College of Law, Illinois Institute of Technology (J.D. May 2007).
 - **8.** The firm also has 15 legal assistants, as well as other support staff.
- **9.** Since its inception, the firm has recovered more than \$500 million for consumers.
 - **10.** The types of cases handled by the firm are illustrated by the following:
- 11. Mortgage charges and servicing practices: The firm has been involved in dozens of cases, mostly class actions, complaining of illegal charges on mortgages and improper servicing practices. These include MDL-899, In re Mortgage Escrow Deposit Litigation, and MDL-1604, In re Ocwen Federal Bank FSB Mortgage Servicing Litigation, as well as the Fairbanks mortgage servicing litigation. Decisions in the firm's mortgage cases include: Christakos v. Intercounty Title Co., 196 F.R.D. 496 (N.D.Ill. 2000); Johnstone v. Bank of America, N.A., 173 F.Supp.2d 809 (N.D.Ill. 2001); Leon v. Washington Mut. Bank, F.A., 164 F.Supp.2d 1034 (N.D.Ill. 2001); Williamson v. Advanta Mortg. Corp., 1999 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 16374 (N.D.III., Oct. 5, 1999); McDonald v. Washington Mut. Bank, F.A., 2000 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 11496 (N.D.Ill., June 22, 2000); Metmor Financial, Inc. v. Eighth Judicial District Court, No. 23848 (Nev.Sup.Ct., Apr. 27, 1993); GMAC Mtge. Corp. v. Stapleton, 236 Ill.App.3d 486, 603 N.E.2d 767 (1st Dist. 1992), leave to appeal denied, 248 Ill.2d 641, 610 N.E.2d 1262 (1993); Leff v. Olympic Fed. S. & L. Ass'n, 1986 WL 10636 (N.D.Ill. 1986); Aitken v. Fleet Mtge. Corp., 1991 U.S.Dist. LEXIS 10420 (N.D.Ill. 1991), and 1992 U.S.Dist. LEXIS 1687 (N.D.Ill., Feb. 12, 1992); Poindexter v. National Mtge. Corp., 1991 U.S.Dist. LEXIS 19643 (N.D.Ill., Dec. 23, 1991), later opinion, 1995 U.S.Dist. LEXIS 5396 (N.D.III., April 24, 1995); Sanders v. Lincoln Service Corp., 1993 U.S.Dist. LEXIS 4454 (N.D.Ill. 1993); Robinson v. Empire of America Realty Credit Corp., 1991 U.S.Dist. LEXIS 2084 (N.D.Ill., Feb. 20, 1991); In re Mortgage Escrow Deposit Litigation, M.D.L. 899, 1994 U.S.Dist. LEXIS 12746 (N.D.Ill., Sept. 8, 1994); Greenberg v. Republic Federal S. & L. Ass'n, 1995 U.S.Dist. LEXIS 5866 (N.D.Ill., May 1, 1995).
- 12. The recoveries in the escrow overcharge cases alone are over \$250 million. Leff was the seminal case on mortgage escrow overcharges.

- 13. The escrow litigation had a substantial effect on industry practices, resulting in limitations on the amounts which mortgage companies held in escrow.
- 14. Bankruptcy: The firm brought a number of cases complaining that money was being systematically collected on discharged debts, in some cases through the use of invalid reaffirmation agreements, including the national class actions against Sears and General Electric. Conley v. Sears, Roebuck, 1:97cv11149 (D.Mass); Fisher v. Lechmere Inc., 1:97cv3065, (N.D.Ill.). These cases were settled and resulted in recovery by nationwide classes. Cathleen Combs successfully argued the first Court of Appeals case to hold that a bankruptcy debtor induced to pay a discharged debt by means of an invalid reaffirmation agreement may sue to recover the payment. Bessette v. Avco Financial Services, 230 F.3d 439 (1st Cir. 2000).
- **15. Automobile sales and financing practices:** The firm has brought many cases challenging practices relating to automobile sales and financing, including:
- **a.** Hidden finance charges resulting from pass-on of discounts on auto purchases. Walker v. Wallace Auto Sales, Inc., 155 F.3d 927, 1998 U.S. App. LEXIS 22663 (7th Cir. 1998).
- b. Misrepresentation of amounts disbursed for extended warranties. Taylor v. Quality Hyundai, Inc., 150 F.3d 689, 1998 U.S.App. LEXIS 16434 (7th Cir. 1998); Grimaldi v. Webb, 282 Ill.App.3d 174, 668 N.E.2d 39 (1st Dist. 1996), leave to appeal denied, 169 Ill.2d 566 (1996); Slawson v. Currie Motors Lincoln Mercury, Inc., 1995 U.S.Dist. LEXIS 451 (N.D.Ill., Jan. 5, 1995); Cirone-Shadow v. Union Nissan, Inc., 1995 U.S.Dist. LEXIS 1379 (N.D.Ill., Feb. 3, 1995), later opinion, 1995 U.S.Dist. LEXIS 5232 (N.D.Ill., April 20, 1995) (same); Chandler v. Southwest Jeep-Eagle, Inc., 1995 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 8212 (N.D.Ill., June 8, 1995); Shields v. Lefta, Inc., 1995 U.S.Dist. LEXIS 7807 (N.D.Ill., June 5, 1995).
- c. Spot delivery. <u>Janikowski v. Lynch Ford, Inc.</u>, 1999 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 3524 (N.D.Ill., March 11, 1999); <u>Diaz v. Westgate Lincoln Mercury, Inc.</u>, 1994 U.S.Dist. LEXIS 16300 (N.D.Ill. 1994); <u>Grimaldi v. Webb</u>, 282 Ill.App.3d 174, 668 N.E.2d 39 (1st Dist. 1996), leave to appeal denied, 169 Ill.2d 566 (1996).
- d. Force placed insurance. <u>Bermudez v. First of America Bank</u> <u>Champion, N.A.</u>, 860 F.Supp. 580 (N.D.Ill. 1994); <u>Travis v. Boulevard Bank</u>, 1994 U.S.Dist. LEXIS 14615 (N.D.Ill., Oct. 13, 1994), modified, 880 F.Supp. 1226 (N.D.Ill., 1995); <u>Moore v. Fidelity Financial Services, Inc.</u>, 884 F. Supp. 288 (N.D.Ill. 1995).
- **e.** Improper obligation of cosigners. <u>Lee v. Nationwide Cassell</u>, 174 Ill.2d 540, 675 N.E.2d 599 (1996); <u>Taylor v. Trans Acceptance Corp.</u>, 267 Ill.App.3d 562, 641 N.E.2d 907 (1st Dist. 1994), leave to appeal denied, 159 Ill.2d 581, 647 N.E.2d 1017 (1995).
- **f.** Evasion of FTC holder rule. <u>Brown v. LaSalle Northwest Nat'l</u> <u>Bank</u>, 148 F.R.D. 584 (N.D.Ill. 1993), 820 F.Supp. 1078 (N.D.Ill. 1993), and 1993 U.S.Dist.

LEXIS 11419 (N.D.Ill., Aug. 13, 1993).

- 16. These cases also had a substantial effect on industry practices. The warranty cases, such as <u>Grimaldi</u>, <u>Gibson</u>, <u>Slawson</u>, <u>Cirone-Shadow</u>, <u>Chandler</u>, and <u>Shields</u>, resulted in the Federal Reserve Board's revision of applicable disclosure requirements, so as to prevent car dealers from representing that the charge for an extended warranty was being disbursed to a third party when that was not in fact the case.
- **17. Predatory lending practices:** The firm has brought numerous cases challenging predatory mortgage and "payday" lending practices, mostly as class actions. Livingston v. Fast Cash USA, Inc., 753 N.E.2d 572 (Ind. Sup. Ct. 2001); Williams v. Chartwell Fin. Servs., 204 F.3d 748 (7th Cir. 2000); Parker v. 1-800 Bar None, a Financial Corp., Inc., 01 C 4488, 2002 WL 215530 (N.D.Ill., Feb 12, 2002); Gilkey v. Central Clearing Co., 202 F.R.D. 515 (E.D.Mich. 2001); Van Jackson v. Check 'N Go of Ill., Inc., 114 F.Supp.2d 731 (N.D.Ill. 2000), later opinion, 193 F.R.D. 544 (N.D.Ill. 2000), 123 F.Supp. 2d 1079 (N.D.Ill. 2000), later opinion, 123 F.Supp. 2d 1085 (N.D.Ill. 2000); Henry v. Cash Today, Inc., 199 F.R.D. 566 (S.D.Tex. 2000); Donnelly v. Illini Cash Advance, Inc., 00 C 94, 2000 WL 1161076, 2000 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 11906 (N.D.Ill., Aug. 14, 2000); Jones v. Kunin, 2000 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 6380 (S.D.III., May 1, 2000); <u>Davis v. Cash for Payday</u>, 193 F.R.D. 518 (N.D.III. 2000); <u>Reese v.</u> Hammer Fin. Corp., 99 C 716, 1999 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 18812, 1999 WL 1101677 (N.D.Ill., Nov. 29, 1999); Pinkett v. Moolah Loan Co., 1999 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 17276 (N.D.Ill., Nov. 1, 1999); Gutierrez v. Devon Fin. Servs., 1999 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 18696 (N.D.Ill., Oct. 6, 1999); Vance v. National Benefit Ass'n, 99 C 2627, 1999 WL 731764, 1999 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 13846 (N.D.Ill., Aug. 26, 1999).
- 18. Other consumer credit issues: The firm has also brought a number of other Truth in Lending and consumer credit cases, mostly as class actions, involving such issues as:
- **a.** Phony nonfiling insurance. Edwards v. Your Credit Inc., 148 F.3d 427, 1998 U.S. App. LEXIS 16818 (5th Cir. 1998); Adams v. Plaza Finance Co., 1999 U.S. App. LEXIS 1052 (7th Cir., January 27, 1999); Johnson v. Aronson Furniture Co., 1997 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 3979 (N.D. Ill., March 31, 1997).
- **b.** The McCarran Ferguson Act exemption. <u>Autry v. Northwest</u> <u>Premium Services, Inc.</u>, 144 F.3d 1037, 1998 U.S. App. LEXIS 9564 (7th Cir. 1998).
- **c.** Loan flipping. <u>Emery v. American General</u>, 71 F.3d 1343 (7th Cir. 1995). <u>Emery limited the pernicious practice of "loan flipping," in which consumers are solicited for new loans and are then refinanced, with "short" credits for unearned finance charges and insurance premiums being given through use of the "Rule of 78s."</u>
- **d.** Home improvement financing practices. <u>Fidelity Financial</u> <u>Services, Inc. v. Hicks</u>, 214 Ill.App.3d 398, 574 N.E.2d 15 (1st Dist. 1991), leave to appeal

denied, 141 Ill.2d 539, 580 N.E.2d 112; Heastie v. Community Bank of Greater Peoria, 690 F.Supp. 716 (N.D.III. 1989), later opinion, 125 F.R.D. 669 (N.D.III. 1990), later opinions, 727 F.Supp. 1133 (N.D.Ill. 1990), and 727 F.Supp. 1140 (N.D.Ill. 1990). Heastie granted certification of a class of over 6,000 in a home improvement fraud case.

- Arbitration clauses. Wrightson v. ITT Financial Services, 617 e. So.2d 334 (Fla. 1st DCA 1993).
- f. Insurance packing. Elliott v. ITT Corp., 764 F.Supp. 102 (N.D.Ill. 1990), later opinion, 150 B.R. 36 (N.D.III. 1992).
- **19. Automobile leases:** The firm has brought a number of a cases alleging illegal charges and improper disclosures on automobile leases, mainly as class actions. Decisions in these cases include <u>Lundquist v. Security Pacific Automotive Financial Services</u> Corp., Civ. No. 5:91-754 (TGFD) (D.Conn.), aff'd, 993 F.2d 11 (2d Cir. 1993); Kedziora v. Citicorp Nat'l Services, Inc., 780 F.Supp. 516 (N.D.Ill. 1991), later opinion, 844 F.Supp. 1289 (N.D.Ill. 1994), later opinion, 883 F.Supp. 1144 (N.D.Ill. 1995), later opinion, 1995 U.S.Dist. LEXIS 12137 (N.D.Ill., Aug. 18, 1995), later opinion, 1995 U.S.Dist. LEXIS 14054 (N.D.Ill., Sept. 25, 1995); Johnson v. Steven Sims Subaru and Subaru Leasing, 1993 U.S.Dist. LEXIS 8078 (N.D.III., June 9, 1993), and 1993 U.S.Dist. LEXIS 11694 (N.D.III., August 20, 1993); McCarthy v. PNC Credit Corp., 1992 U.S.Dist. LEXIS 21719 (D.Conn., May 27, 1992); Kinsella v. Midland Credit Mgmt., Inc., 1992 U.S.Dist. LEXIS 1405, 1992 WL 26908 (N.D.Ill. 1992); Highsmith v. Chrysler Credit Corp., 18 F.3d 434 (7th Cir. 1994); Black v. Mitsubishi Motors Credit of America, Inc., 1994 U.S.Dist. LEXIS 11158 (N.D.Ill., August 10, 1994); Simon v. World Omni Leasing Inc., 146 F.R.D. 197 (S.D.Ala. 1992). Settlements in such cases include Shepherd v. Volvo Finance North America, Inc., 1-93-CV-971 (N.D.Ga.)(\$8 million benefit); McCarthy v. PNC Credit Corp., 291 CV 00854 PCD (D.Conn.); Lynch Leasing Co. v. Moore, 90 CH 876 (Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois) (class in auto lease case was certified for litigation purposes, partial summary judgment was entered, and case was then settled); Blank v. Nissan Motor Acceptance Corp., 91 L 8516 (Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois); Mortimer v. Toyota Motor Credit Co., 91 L 18043 (Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois); Duffy v. Security Pacific Automotive Financial Services, Inc., 93-729 IEG (BTM) (S.D.Cal., April 28, 1994).
- 20. <u>Lundquist</u> and <u>Highsmith</u> are leading cases; both held that commonly-used lease forms violated the Consumer Leasing Act. As a result of the Lundquist case, the Federal Reserve Board completely revamped the disclosure requirements applicable to auto leases, resulting in vastly improved disclosures to consumers.
- **Collection practices:** The firm has brought a number of cases under the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, both class and individual. Decisions in these cases include: Jenkins v. Heintz, 25 F.3d 536 (7th Cir. 1994), aff'd 115 S.Ct. 1489, 131 L.Ed.2d 395 (1995); Johnson v. Revenue Management Corp., 169 F.3d 1057, 1999 U.S. App. LEXIS 3142 (7th Cir. 1999); Keele v. Wexler & Wexler, 1996 U.S.Dist. LEXIS 3253 (N.D.Ill., March 18, 1996)

(class), 1995 U.S.Dist. LEXIS 13215 (N.D.Ill. 1995) (merits), aff'd, 149 F.3d 589, 1998 U.S.App. LEXIS 15029 (7th Cir. 1998); Mace v. Van Ru Credit Corp., 109 F.3d 338, 1997 U.S.App. LEXIS 5000 (7th Cir., Mar. 17, 1997); Maguire v. Citicorp Retail Services, Inc., 147 F.3d 232, 1998 U.S.App. LEXIS 16112 (2d Cir. 1998); Young v. Citicorp Retail Services, Inc., 1998 U.S.App. LEXIS 20268 (2d Cir. 1998); Charles v. Lundgren & Assocs., P.C., 119 F.3d 739, 1997 U.S. App. LEXIS 16786 (9th Cir. 1997); Avila v. Rubin, 84 F.3d 222 (7th Cir. 1996), aff'g Avila v. Van Ru Credit Corp., 1995 U.S.Dist. LEXIS 461 (N.D.Ill., Jan. 10, 1995), later opinion, 1995 U.S.Dist. LEXIS 1502 (N.D.Ill., Feb. 6, 1995), later opinion, 1995 U.S.Dist. LEXIS 17117 (N.D.Ill., Nov. 14, 1995); Tolentino v. Friedman, 833 F.Supp. 697 (N.D.Ill. 1993), aff'd in part and rev'd in part, 46 F.3d 645 (7th Cir. 1995); Blakemore v. Pekav. 895 F.Supp.972 (N.D.Ill. 1995); Oglesby v. Rotche, 1993 U.S.Dist. LEXIS 15687 (N.D.Ill., Nov. 4, 1993), later opinion, 1994 U.S.Dist. LEXIS 4866 (N.D.Ill., April 15, 1994); Laws v. Cheslock, 1999 U.S.Dist. LEXIS 3416 (N.D.III., Mar. 8, 1999); Davis v. Commercial Check Control, Inc., 1999 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 1682 (N.D.Ill., Feb. 12, 1999); Hoffman v. Partners in Collections, Inc., 1993 U.S.Dist. LEXIS 12702 (N.D.Ill., Sept. 15, 1993); Vaughn v. CSC Credit Services, Inc., 1994 U.S.Dist. LEXIS 2172 (N.D.III., March 1, 1994), adopted, 1995 U.S.Dist. LEXIS 1358 (N.D.Ill., Feb. 3, 1995); Beasley v. Blatt, 1994 U.S.Dist. LEXIS 9383 (N.D.Ill., July 14, 1994); Taylor v. Fink, 1994 U.S.Dist. LEXIS 16821 (N.D.Ill., Nov. 23, 1994); Gordon v. Fink, 1995 U.S.Dist. LEXIS 1509 (N.D.Ill., Feb. 7, 1995); Brujis v. Shaw, 876 F.Supp. 198 (N.D.Ill. 1995). Settlements in such cases include Boddie v. Meyer, 93 C 2975 (N.D.Ill.); and Cramer v. First of America Bank Corporation, 93 C 3189 (N.D.III.).

- 22. Jenkins v. Heintz is a leading decision regarding the liability of attorneys under the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act. I argued it before the Supreme Court and Seventh Circuit. Avila v. Rubin is a leading decision on phony "attorney letters."
- 23. Fair Credit Reporting Act: The firm has filed numerous cases under the Fair Credit Reporting Act, primarily as class actions. One line of cases alleges that lenders and automotive dealers, among others, improperly accessed consumers' credit information, without their consent and without having a purpose for doing so permitted by the FCRA. Important decisions in this area include: Cole v. U.S. Capital, Inc., 389 F.3d 719 (7th Cir. 2004), Murray v. GMAC Mortgage Corp., 434 F.3d 948 (7th Cir. 2006); Perry v. First National Bank, 459 F.3d 816 (7th Cir. 2006); Murray v. Sunrise Chevrolet, Inc., 441 F. Supp.2d 940 (N.D. Ill. 2006); Murray v. GMAC Mortgage Corp., 05 C 1229, _____ F.Supp.2d _____, 2007 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 26726 (N.D.Ill. April 10, 2007); Shellman v. Countrywide Home Loans, Inc., 1:05-CV-234-TS, 2007 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 27491 (N.D.Ind., April 12, 2007); In re Ocean Bank, 06 C 3515, 2007 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 28973 (N.D.Ill., March 16, 2007), later opinion, 2007 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 29443 (N.D. Ill., Apr. 9, 2007); Asbury v. People's Choice Home Loan, Inc., 05 C 5483, 2007 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 17654 (N.D.Ill., March 12, 2007); Claffey v. River Oaks Hyundai, Inc., 238 F.R.D. 464 (N.D.Ill. 2006); Murray v. IndyMac Bank, FSB, 461 F.Supp.2d 645 (N.D.Ill. 2006); Kudlicki v. Capital One Auto Finance, Inc., 2006 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 81103 (N.D. Ill., Nov. 2, 2006); Thomas v. Capital One Auto Finance, Inc., 2006 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 81358 (N.D. Ill., Oct. 24, 2006); Pavone v. Aegis Lending Corp., 2006 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 62157 (N.D. Ill., Aug. 31, 2006); Murray v. E*Trade Financial Corp., 2006 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 53945 (N.D. Ill., July 19,

2006); Bonner v. Home 123 Corp., 2006 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 37922 (N.D. Ind., May 25, 2006); Murray v. Sunrise Chevrolet, Inc., 2006 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 19626 (N.D. III., Mar. 30, 2006); and Murray v. Finance America, LLC, 2006 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 7349 (N.D. Ill., Jan 5, 2006). More than 15 such cases have been settled on a classwide basis.

- Class action procedure: Important decisions include Crawford v. 24. Equifax Payment Services, Inc., 201 F.3d 877 (7th Cir. 2000); Blair v. Equifax Check Services, Inc., 181 F.3d 832 (7th Cir. 1999); Mace v. Van Ru Credit Corp., 109 F.3d 338, 344 (7th Cir. 1997); and Gordon v. Boden, 224 Ill.App.3d 195, 586 N.E.2d 461 (1st Dist. 1991).
- 25. Landlord-tenant: The firm has brought a number of class actions against landlords for various matters including failing to pay interest on security deposits or commingling security deposits, breach of the warranty of habitability, improper late charges, and various violations of the CRLTO. Reported decisions include: Wang v. Williams, 343 Ill. App. 3d 495; 797 N.E.2d 179 (5th Dist. 2003); Onni v. Apartment Management and Investment Co., 344 Ill. App. 3d 1099; 801 N.E.2d 586 (2d Dist. 2003) (case challenging improper late charges, which later settled on a class basis for \$200,000); Dickson v. West Koke Mill Village P'Ship, 329 III.App.3d 341 (4th Dist. 2002). Illustrative cases include: Hale v. East Lake Management & Developmental Corp., et al., 00 CH 16139, in the Cook County Circuit Court, Judge Madden granted class certification for tenants who had not been paid their security deposit interest after the end of each twelve month rental period. The East Lake case later settled on a classwide basis for over \$400,000.
- Some of the other reported decisions in our cases include: Elder v. 26. Coronet Ins. Co., 201 Ill.App.3d 733, 558 N.E.2d 1312 (1st Dist. 1990); Smith v. Keycorp Mtge., Inc., 151 Bankr. 870 (N.D.Ill. 1992); Gordon v. Boden, 224 Ill.App.3d 195, 586 N.E.2d 461 (1st Dist. 1991), leave to appeal denied, 144 Ill.2d 633, 591 N.E.2d 21, cert. denied, U.S. (1992); Armstrong v. Edelson, 718 F.Supp. 1372 (N.D.Ill. 1989); Newman v. 1st 1440 Investment, Inc., 1993 U.S.Dist. LEXIS 354 (N.D.III. 1993); Mountain States Tel. & Tel. Co. v. District Court, 778 P.2d 667 (Colo. 1989); Disher v. Fulgoni, 124 Ill.App.3d 257, 464 N.E.2d 639, 643 (1st Dist. 1984); Harman v. Lyphomed, Inc., 122 F.R.D. 522 (N.D.III. 1988); Haslam v. Lefta, Inc., 1992 U.S.Dist. LEXIS 3623 (N.D.Ill., March 25, 1994); Source One Mortgage Services Corp. v. Jones, 1994 U.S.Dist. LEXIS 333 (N.D.III., Jan. 13, 1994).
- 27. Gordon v. Boden is the first decision approving "fluid recovery" in an Illinois class action. Elder v. Coronet Insurance held that an insurance company's reliance on lie detectors to process claims was an unfair and deceptive trade practice.

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